WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

Sub B1

1. A ~~method of driving a liquid crystal~~ display device, said liquid crystal display device comprising: a first substrate; a second substrate opposing said first substrate with a gap therebetween; a liquid crystal layer confined in said gap; a thin-film transistor formed on said first substrate; a conductor pattern formed on said first substrate in electrical connection with said thin-film transistor, said conductor pattern supplying an alternate-current driving voltage signal to said thin-film transistor; a pixel electrode provided on said first substrate in electrical connection to said thin-film transistor; an auxiliary electrode formed on said first substrate in the vicinity of said conductor pattern so as to form an auxiliary capacitance with said pixel electrode, said auxiliary electrode being disposed so as to induce a lateral electric field between said auxiliary electrode and said conductor pattern; and an opposing electrode formed on said second substrate;

said method comprising the step of:

applying to said auxiliary electrode a common voltage substantially equal to a central voltage of said alternate-current driving voltage signal.

2. ~~A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ said common voltage is deviated from ~~said central~~ voltage by an ~~amount corresponding~~ to 2/5 or less of an ~~amplitude of said alternate-current driving~~ voltage

signal set so as to provide a maximum gradation level.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said common voltage is deviated from said central voltage by an amount corresponding to 1/20 or less of an amplitude of said alternate-current driving voltage signal set so as to provide a maximum gradation level.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said central voltage is substantially zero volt.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said central voltage is offset from zero volt.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said common voltage is set such that a fluctuation of a leakage light, caused by a disclination induced in said liquid crystal layer by a lateral electric filed, is 10% or less.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said common voltage is set such that a flow of liquid

crystal molecules, caused in said liquid crystal layer by a disclination induced in said liquid crystal layer by a lateral electric field, has a velocity of 80 μm or less per an interval of 24 hours.

8. ~~A liquid crystal display device, said~~ liquid crystal display device comprising: a first substrate;

a second substrate opposing said first substrate with a gap therebetween;

a liquid crystal layer confined in said gap;

a thin-film transistor formed on said first substrate;

a conductor pattern formed on said first substrate in electrical connection with said thin-film transistor;

a driving circuit supplying an alternate-current driving voltage signal to said thin-film transistor via said conductor pattern;

a pixel electrode provided on said first substrate in electrical connection to said thin-film transistor;

an auxiliary electrode formed on said first substrate in the vicinity of said conductor pattern so as to form an auxiliary capacitance with said pixel electrode, said auxiliary electrode being disposed so as to induce a lateral electric field between said auxiliary electrode and said conductor pattern;

an opposing electrode formed on said second substrate; and

a direct-current source applying, to said auxiliary electrode, a common voltage substantially equal to a central voltage of said alternate-current ~~driving voltage signal.~~

9. ~~A liquid crystal display device as~~ claimed in claim 8, wherein said direct-current source produces said common voltage such that said common voltage is deviated from said central voltage by an amount corresponding to 2/5 or less of an amplitude of said alternate-current driving voltage signal set so as to provide a maximum gradation level.

10. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said direct-current source produces said common voltage such that said common voltage is deviated from said central voltage by an amount corresponding to 1/20 or less of an amplitude of said alternate-current driving voltage signal set so as to provide a maximum gradation level.

11. A liquid crystal display device as claimed claim 8, wherein said driving circuit produces said alternate-current driving voltage signal such that said central voltage is substantially zero volt.

12. A liquid crystal display device as claimed claim 8, wherein said driving circuit produces said alternate-current driving voltage signal such ~~that said~~ central voltage is ~~offset from~~ zero volt.

13. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said direct-current source produces said common voltage such that a fluctuation of a leakage light, caused by a disclination induced in said liquid crystal layer by a lateral electric filed, is 10% or less.

14. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said direct-current source produces said common voltage such that a flow of liquid crystal molecules, caused in said liquid crystal layer by a disclination induced in said liquid crystal layer by a lateral electric field, has a velocity of 80 μm or less per an interval of 24 hours.

15. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed of a low-voltage liquid crystal.

16. A liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said auxiliary electrode extends along an edge of said conductor pattern, said lqiuid crystal display device thereby forming an H-type Cs liquid crystal display device.